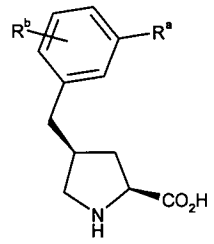
IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ib):



(Ib)

wherein R^a is selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_6 alkynyl, hydroxyC_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxyC_1-C_6 alkyl, perfluoroC_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylamino, di- C_1-C_6 alkylamino, aminoC_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkylaminoC_1-C_6 alkyl, di-C_1-C_6 alkylaminoC_1-C_6 alkyl, and ~~C_1-C_6acyl, C_1-C_6acyloxy, C_1-C_6acyloxyC_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 acylamino,~~ C_1-C_6 alkylthio~~, C_1-C_6 alkylthiocarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylthioxo, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C_1-C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl~~;

R^b is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, hydroxyC_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxyC_1-C_6 alkyl, perfluoro C_1-C_6 alkyl, perfluoroC_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylamino, di-C_1-C_6 alkylamino, aminoC_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkylaminoC_1-C_6 alkyl, di-C_1-C_6 alkylaminoC_1-C_6 alkyl, and ~~C_1-C_6acyl, C_1-C_6acyloxy, C_1-C_6acyloxyC_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 acylamino,~~ C_1-C_6 alkylthio~~, C_1-C_6 alkylthiocarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylthioxo, C_1-C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C_1-C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl~~; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. -17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15 which is selected from the group consisting of:

~~(2*S*,4*S*)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid~~;

(2*S*,4*S*)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; and

(2*S*,4*S*)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other therapeutically active agent.

22. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~combination~~ according to claim 21, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor selected from sildenafil, vardenafil, tadalafil, 1-{6-ethoxy-5-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-7-oxo-2H-pyrazolo[4,3- d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-3-pyridylsulfonyl}-4-ethylpiperazine, 5-(5-acetyl-2-butoxy-3-pyridinyl)-3-ethyl-2-(1-ethyl-3-azetidinyl)-2,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*d*]pyrimidin-7-one and 5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-ylsulphonyl)pyridin-3-yl]-3-ethyl-2-[2-methoxyethyl]-2,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*d*]pyrimidin-7-one.

23. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The compound (2*S*,4*S*)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound (2*S*,4*S*)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound (2*S*,4*S*)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (New) The salt, (2*S*,4*S*)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid mono hydrochloride salt.